NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

Weekly Staff Newsletter
May 14, 1999

Two new books by Field Museum archaeologists

April saw the publication of a book by Assistant Curator **Chapurukha Kusimba** (Anthropology), *The Rise and Fall of Swahili States* (AltaMira Press). In the book Chap provides an African-derived account of the prehistory and history of the Swahili coast of East Africa over the past two thousand years, offering a new perspective on a subject long dominated by Western scholars. Drawing on historical, archaeological, ethnoarchaeological, and environmental evidence, as well as the results of his own fieldwork, Chap traces the development of Swahili states from their indigenous predecessors, untangles the complex web of local lifeways vs. external influences on Swahili culture, and documents the radical socioeconomic and demographic changes brought on by European and Arab colonialism. Anthropologist Bernard Wailes of the University of Pennsylvania declares that Chap's "highly readable and stimulating book is very timely for all those interested in recent research and interpretation of Africa in later prehistoric and earlier historic times."

In addition, just this week the University of Utah Press released **Stephen Nash**'s book *Time, Trees, and Prehistory: Tree-Ring Dating and the Development of North American Archaeology 1914 - 1950*. Steve is Director of the Paul Martin Project (Anthropology), and his book examines the growth, development, and application of North American tree-ring dating prior to 1950. Dendrochronology, the science of assigning precise calendar dates to annual growth rings in trees, developed at a time when archaeologists had no absolute dating techniques to guide their analyses. Tree-ring dates forced archaeologists to radically revise their understanding of the prehistoric past. For example, tree-ring dates demonstrated that classic Anasazi sites in Chaco Canyon and Mesa Verde, once believed to be two thousand years old and occupied for nearly a thousand years, were actually half that old, and often built, occupied, and abandoned in just over a century. Other changes in temporal scale forced archaeologists to reconsider the rate of prehistoric cultural change, population growth, and the degree of social and political complexity. As *Time, Trees, and Prehistory* shows, tree-ring dating set the stage for revolutionary developments in archaeological method, theory, and interpretation in the following decades.

Submitted by the Academic Affairs Department

NATIONAL SCIENCE OLYMPIAD STARTS TODAY!

See insert

FIELD NOTES

Week of May 17

Public Events/Special Events

Museum Campus Bicycle Day
• Sunday MC, MSI

Staff/Volunteer Events

Tuesday Noon Seminar Series
• Zoology Classroom

Caribbean Reef Field Trip
• Tuesday 2 p.m., Shedd

Aerobics Class
• Tuesday & Thursday 5 p.m.
Ground Floor, East Stairwell

ATTENTION MOVIE BUFFS

Call or stop by the Human Resources office for discounted movie tickets for Loews/Cineplex Odeon/Sony Theatres for only $5.

PLANNING ON JOINING US AT THE SHEDD ON TUESDAY?

Our field trip to the new coral reef exhibit at the Shedd Aquarium is scheduled for this Tuesday, May 18. Please call Human Resources (ext. 356) to reserve a space if you have not already filled out a reservation form. We will be meeting by the north door promptly at 1:45 p.m. and walking over to the Shedd.

Submitted by the Social Events Committee

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Heaney hits the Philippines again – and again

Larry Heaney (Zoology) just returned from four weeks in the Philippines, where he attended the annual meeting of the Wildlife Conservation Society of the Philippines (and presented a paper on extinction models), hiked through a national park where primary rain forest still reaches from the shoreline to 4,000 feet elevation, visited the study site where **Jodi Sedlock** (Zoology and grad student at UIC) is doing her dissertation studies of insect-eating bats, and worked on planning for future conservation training programs. The most exciting part of the trip was tracking down the donor of an extraordinary fossil mammal from the Philippines. Michael Armas, now 73 years old, found the fossil bones and teeth during mining operations on Cebu Island in 1958, and after keeping them on his shelf at home for nearly 40 years, decided to send them to his nephew in Chicago where he hoped they would be identified and put to some use. The fossil made its way to **John Flynn** (Geology) who is now working with Larry to study them. The animal was a tiny water buffalo that stood about 24 inches at the shoulder - no larger than a big dog. Carbon-14 dating will be done later this year, but the bones are probably roughly 12,000-25,000 years old, and they represent an extinct species previously unknown.

Larry will return to the Philippines on May 24 to attend the First National Conference on the Science and Management of Mountain Ecosystems at the University of the Philippines at Los Banos, at which he will present the Keynote Address. He'll be back in Chicago on May 31, timing it perfectly to maximize his jet lag.

Kerbis receives tenure, promotion at Roosevelt University

Julian Kerbis Peterhans, Adjunct Curator (Zoology/Mammals) has received tenure with a promotion to the level of Associate Professor at the Evelyn T. Stone University College, Roosevelt University, Chicago. Kerbis started his career at The Field Museum in 1976 as a volunteer, before becoming a graduate student-in-residence, Collection Manager in the Division of Mammals, Research Associate, and more recently, Adjunct Curator. Julian is also a Research Associate in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Chicago.

New projects to study volunteerism, spousalism

Chuimei Ho (Adjunct Curator, Asian Anthropology) is developing several projects on the social anthropology of the elderly. She has just completed a survey of active seniors regarding intensity of daily activities among people who are 68 or above, based on 30 Museum volunteers and 15 volunteers from other Chicago institutions.

Volunteering, she has found, is by far the most enjoyable regular event among 29 other social, educational, and self-understanding activities.

Chuimei will also organize a panel on activities among the elderly in non-Western societies for the coming American Anthropological Association annual meeting in Chicago this November. Panelists will include **Chap Kusimba** (Associate Curator, African Anthropology) and **Maria Cattell** (Research Associate, African Anthropology).

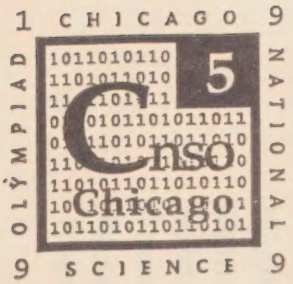
In addition, she is planning a workshop to discuss stress among those caring for elderly Alzheimer's disease patients. **Sheila Wheatley** (Anthropology secretary) and volunteer **Jean Vondriska** will organize the event, to be held in early December.

In another direction, Chuimei is working on issues related to spousalism, studying attitudes toward couples who are professionally affiliated with the same workplace. She has received very supportive responses from adjunct curators, research associates and associates within the Museum, and is planning to do a survey of several institutions in Chicago. She welcomes suggestions about persons to contact regarding this issue.

Tuesday At Noon Seminar Series continues

Mr. Bryan Stuart, a graduate student at North Carolina State University will speak to us on "Exploration of the Amphibians and Reptiles of Laos." Bryan recently spent 14 months surveying these animals in a number of protected areas throughout Laos. This has been one of the most poorly known regions of the world and his work is a significant addition to our knowledge of the region. He will also discuss the uncontrolled trade of reptiles and conservation issues. Please join us at 12 noon in the Zoology classroom on May 18.

Submitted by **Bill Burger**



SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

Exploring the World of Science

CHICAGO NATIONAL SCIENCE OLYMPIAD TOURNAMENT

TODAY...

...is the first day of the Chicago National Science Olympiad Tournament, 1999, the 13th National Tournament in Science Olympiad history. Today there are over 1,000 students competing in events around the Museum, around 600 coaches and chaperones, along with additional parents and siblings!

Check out our Olympiad events, taking place right in our halls! Our very own staff have worked to create and administer many of these tests, including *Birds* (Dave Willard), *Dinosaurs* (Greg Buckley), *Don't Bug Me* (Dan Summers), *Fossils* (Peter Wagner), *Mammals* (Jack Fooden), *Amphibians and Reptiles* (Marty Pryzdia and Alan Resetar), *Rocks and Minerals* (Peter Laraba), and *Useful Plants* (Bill Burger).

And don't forget the other events around the Museum, such as Bridges, Towers, and more!

Wander around the Museum on your lunch hour... you'll be amazed by the scientific sophistication you'll find! So check the map on the back for event locations, or stop by the West Door for more information!

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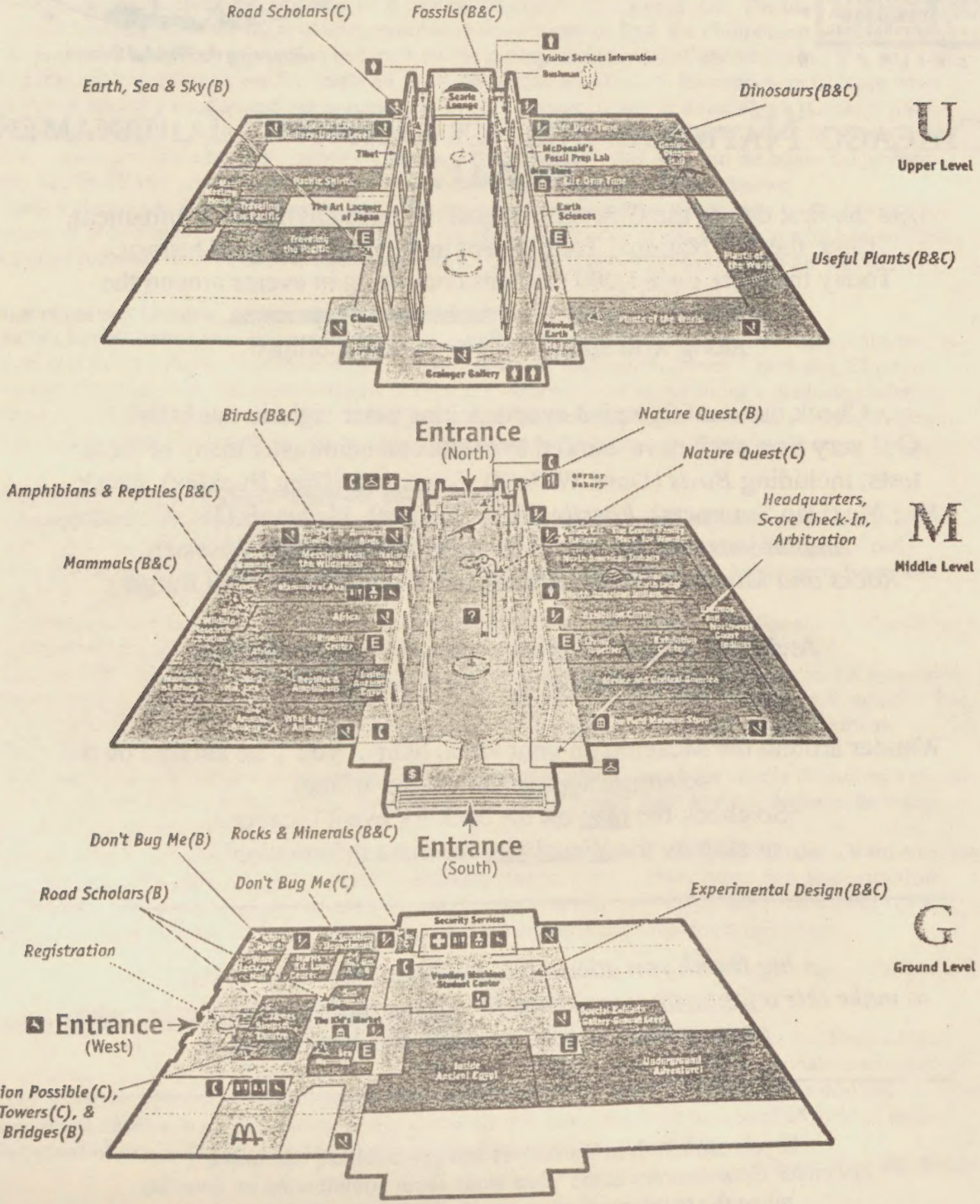
*A big **thank you** goes out to everyone who has worked to make this a fantastic tournament for all the students and coaches who have worked so hard to make it to Nationals!!*

If you can't wait to learn more and get involved, talk to our *Volunteer Coordinators* at the West Door about volunteering on Saturday, when the tournament moves to the University of Chicago!

The Field Museum

competition sites & registration



The Field Museum

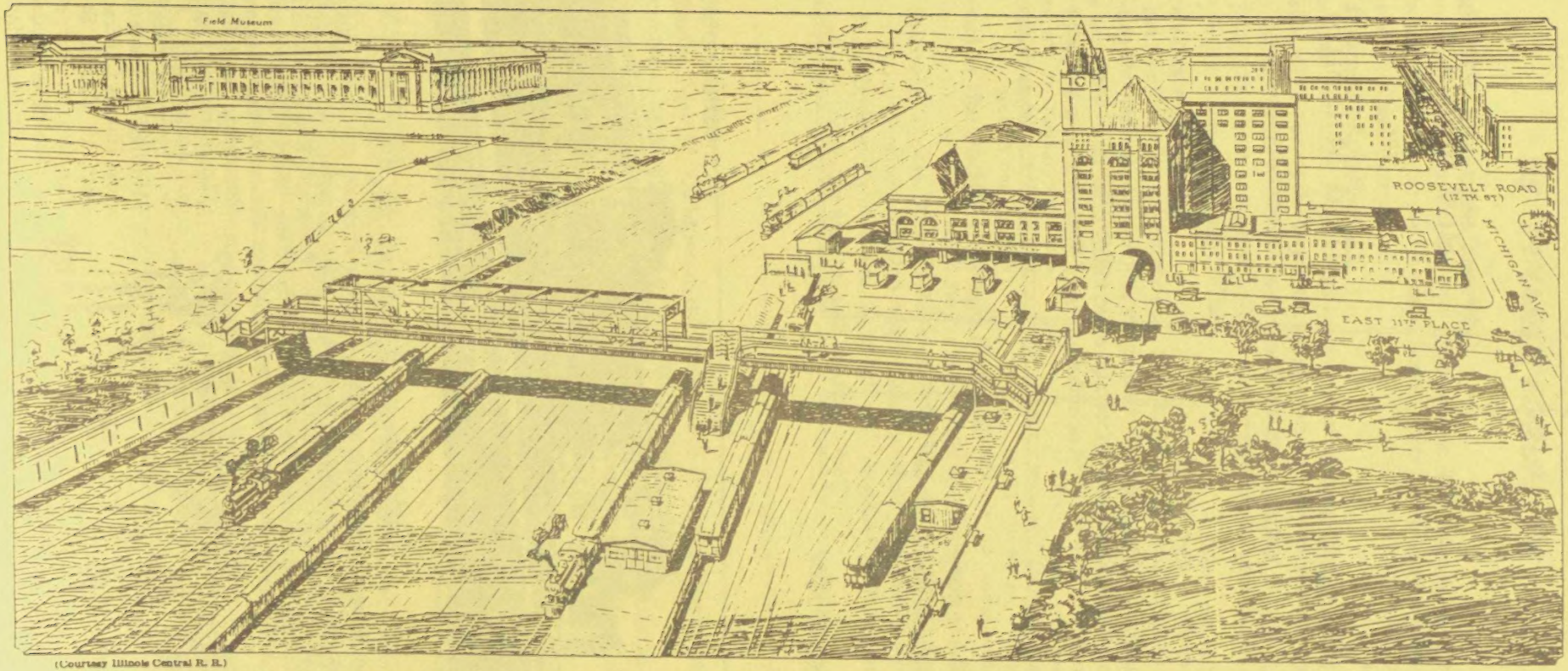
TelephoneRenovation

Cutover to New System is Weekend of May 22nd!

Old Meridian Voicemail is disconnected May 21st at 5:30 pm. All New and Saved messages will be <u>unavailable</u> after that time

45 minute (Ms.) Octel Voicemail Training per this Schedule:

DATE	TIME	WHERE	LAST NAME
Wednesday, May 19th	9:00 am	Lecture Hall 2	Adams - Brown
Wednesday, May 19th	10:00 am	Lecture Hall 2	Bruce - Dedakis
Wednesday, May 19th	11:00 am	Lecture Hall 2	Denardo - Gnoske
Wednesday, May 19th	1:00 pm	Lecture Hall 2	Golf - Jamison
Wednesday, May 19th	2:00 pm	Lecture Hall 2	Jarold - Lockhart
Wednesday, May 19th	3:00 pm	Lecture Hall 2	Loetel - Niezgoda
Thursday, May 20th	1:00 pm	James Simpson Theater	Niimi - Reichard
Thursday, May 20th	2:00 pm	James Simpson Theater	Resetar - Starkowicz
Thursday, May 20th	3:00 pm	James Simpson Theater	Stephenens - Zissimopoulos



(Courtesy Illinois Central R. R.)

Proximity of the Field Museum to Illinois Central Suburban Station at Roosevelt Road (12th St.) and Michigan Boulevard

A piece of the past.....

A friend sent this in and I thought you would be interested.

John McCarter

The Museum

is open to the public during the following hours:

November, December, January
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

February, March, April, October
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

May, June, July, August, September
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Admission is free on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays. Children free on all days. The admission on other days is twenty-five cents. Students and teachers are admitted free upon presentation of proper credentials.

Cafeteria on Ground Floor

How to Reach

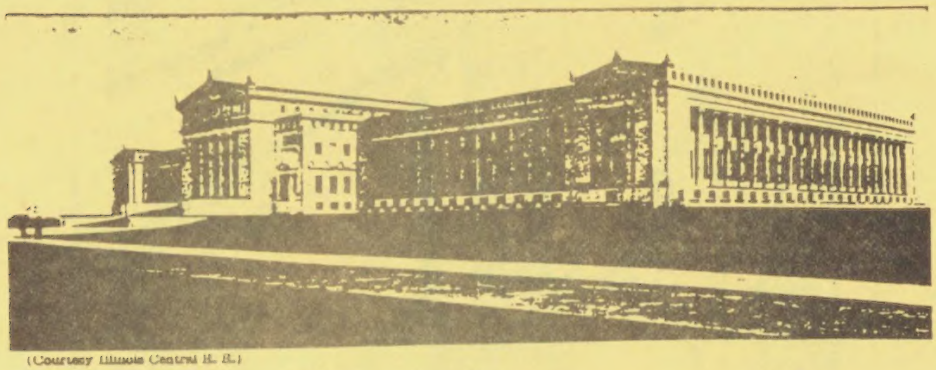
the

Field Museum

Grant Park—Lake Front

An opportunity not to be missed while in Chicago.

The changing world is held for your investigation, in the exhibits of Anthropology, Botany, Geology and Zoology.



(Courtesy Illinois Central R. R.)

Field Museum of Natural History

The Museum building is located in Grant Park, on the lake front. It may be reached (1) by taking an elevated train or surface line to Roosevelt Road and Wabash Avenue, walking east on Roosevelt Road to Michigan Avenue and thence across the viaduct north of the Illinois Central Station to Grant Park; (2) by taking an Illinois Central local suburban train to the Roosevelt Road Station (12th Street) and walking east across Grant Park, or (3) by motor route from Michigan Boulevard, cross Illinois Central viaduct at Eighth Street, Van Buren Street or Monroe Street, turn south on the first macadamized road which leads directly to the Museum.

Stanley Field Hall, Field Museum

$$ FINANCE FORUM $$

Use of expense code 519 (Employee Benefits)

There has been some confusion regarding the new expense code. This code is only designated for Museum-wide employee benefits and should not be used by departments other than Human Resources. Please accept our apologies if this has caused any inconvenience.

Time-stamping of Payment Approvals

ALL Payment Approvals submitted to Accounts Payable must be **time-stamped**. The time-stamp machine is in the Accounts Payable office next to the Payment Approval in-box. If you drop off your Payment Approval form in the Accounting mailbox in the mailroom, we cannot be sure of whether or not the Wednesday 10 a.m. deadline has been met for Friday check availability. To be sure of meeting this deadline, take your Payment Approval forms directly to the Accounts Payable office.

Reminder: check envelope recycling

We have started to get a few window envelopes back from some of you, but we know there are more out there. Please help us reduce the number of envelopes we go through each month. If they are piling up in your office or getting thrown away after your department picks up checks, please return them to **Kim Greene** in the Finance Department to be recycled for employee check distribution.

Thanks to all involved in the Pacific Heritage Festival

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all the Field Museum staff members who helped to make the Pacific Island Heritage Festival a success. Specials thanks to **Bob Cazy, Ron Hall** and **Mentee Teah** in Audio-Visual, **Carolyn Moon** in Visitor Services, **Sheldon Moy** in Maintenance, **Thom Moon** in Engineering, **Maria Fontana** in Education , **Jean Cattel** in Exhibits and the *terrific* staff members from Security, Visitor Services, Housekeeping and Engineering. Thanks for making it all happen so well!

Submitted by **Mara Cosillo-Starr**

Important payroll information

Memorial Day is Monday, May 31. All Museum office areas will be closed. Due to this staff holiday, your time sheets must be submitted to the Payroll office by noon on Thursday, May 27.

If you are planning a vacation soon, remember to submit your Early Check Request to the Payroll/Human Resources office TEN WORKING DAYS before the day you wish to receive your check. Your check will be available by 1 p.m. on the last day you work before going on vacation.

If you have any questions please call **Maria Burns** at ext. 356.

Submitted by the Human Resources Department

To all employees and volunteers:

The Field Museum has joined with the Museums in the Park to seek a portion of Governor Ryan's infrastructure program known as "Illinois FIRST" for the museums. This wide-ranging program is intended to provide much-needed support for the State's infrastructure including roads, mass transit and schools. The museums are seeking 1% of the total, which could mean millions of dollars for The Field Museum.

At this time, we need your support in a letter-writing campaign to all members in the Legislature. We have prepared postcards, which should be filled in with your signature and address. Please pick up cards from your departmental contact person and drop them off or send them back to External Affairs. If you know your Representative/Senator's name, fill it in in the salutation. If you do not, simply make sure your address is legible and we will look it up for you. We appreciate your participation in this important endeavor.

Submitted by **Fay Hartog Levin**

To everyone:

I wanted to let everyone know that I will be making some changes to my position. Beginning in mid-June I will begin to work on a part-time basis instead of a full-time basis. This will allow me to help with the transition within Public Programs over the summer and then to be able to work on special projects starting in the fall. On my "off" days I will also be doing some project work for the Chicago Botanic Garden. My time at the Museum over the past 8+ years has been challenging, exciting and rewarding. One of the best parts, to me, has been the opportunity to work with all of you, and I look forward to being able to continue to be involved here. **Randy Strickland** will be the acting manager of Public Programs; he can be reached at ext. 362.

Submitted by **Kristie Webber**

Couch-bound curator catches PR intern on *Jeopardy*

According to Botany's **Nancy Hensold** who spoke to **Mike Dillon**, Public Relations intern **Whitney Owens** was a contestant on this week's *Jeopardy* show, which featured the best and brightest Chicago college students. Whitney is a student at Northwestern.

ANSWER: Laid up in bed after surgery to repair his Achilles tendon.

QUESTION: Why was Mike Dillon watching TV in the middle of the day?

Submitted by **Nina Cummings**

Add this to your to-do list . . .

Do you use a Franklin Covey planner? Have you read *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People?* Would you like to share helpful hints and valuable lessons with other Museum employees who use Franklin Covey planners? Join us for a brown-bag lunch on Tuesday, May 25 at noon in the Campaign Center (ground floor private dining area near McDonald's). We'll have an informal gathering to see what kind of Franklin Covey users' group people might be interested in forming. We'll also share information about how Museum employees can get a 20% discount on all purchases of Franklin Covey products! Please call **Jaci Gray** (ext. 217) or **Rodger Patience** (ext. 617) if you plan to attend so we can prepare enough handouts.

Submitted by **Rodger Patience**

FAN MAIL

Mr. **[John] McCarter:**

As a recent visitor to your museum, I would like to take this opportunity to commend one employee in particular who made my visit truly special.

Because it was my first visit to the Field Museum, and I had arrived so late in the day, I was overwhelmed with the abundance of exhibits. My daughter and I wanted to see what we could in our limited amount of time. It was then that I encountered one of your employees, Mr. **Anthony Valentino**, who helped me set my bearings and make the most of our visit. Mr. Valentino helped us to locate some of your more outstanding exhibits including the new *Underground Adventure*, the Sue T-Rex fossil and the wonderfully presented display of the worked of Margaret Mee. Mr. Valentino possesses an enormous wealth of information on the history and interesting facts of the museum.

We hope to have the chance to visit again. Please keep up the outstanding work!

Sincerely,
Ms. Judy Smith

Natural News

The *Natural News* is edited by **Rodger Patience** in the Development office (ext. 617, patience@fmnh.org) and **Erica Kelly** in the Finance Department (ext. 584, ekelly@fmnh.org). Submissions are welcome via e-mail or on disk in Microsoft Word or WordPerfect format. The deadline for submissions is Tuesday at noon. Remember – write early and often!